

THE AGES OF BRIDES.

Should They Be as Old or Much Younger than Their Partners?

Interesting Prize Discussion in "The Evening World."

The Contest Will Close at Noon of Saturday, Oct. 25.

Should husband and wife be near the same age, or should the wife be much younger?

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Nearer of an Age the Better.

The majority of your contributors advise a disparity of from five to ten years in the respective ages of man and wife, the latter being the junior in order to enjoy perfect conjugal bliss.

Their arguments imply that "she will then look up to her husband with respect," that "woman ages quicker than man," and "that he will be happier on account of her beauty and juvenescence."

I differ materially from this view, and assert that love, pure and of long standing, is the only condition for a future of mutual felicity, regardless of age or other factors.

However, young people should be of about the same age, and marry between twenty-five and thirty, for then they fully understand each other and realize the conditions of matrimony.

Man's opportunities and contact with the world in social and business walks ever make him his wife's superior intellectually, thus commanding her respect, while he will find her an intelligent and sympathetic mate from point of age and experience.

What if the roses do fade from her cheeks a few years sooner? Does our love for mother diminish as she becomes gray and wrinkled? It not, then my conclusion is apparent.

J. A. H.

Real Secret of Married Happiness.

To the Editor:

As people advance in years, their ideas as to what constitutes the chief pleasures and enjoyments of life are continually changing.

In order to make the married life a happy one it is necessary that the tastes of husband and wife should run in the same direction, and for this to be possible they must be so allied that they gradually grow older together, keeping always the same relative positions towards youth or old age.

It is my opinion that this world, the woman about twenty years old, at marriage, ten years later they are both physically and intellectually in the prime of life.

At fifty and forty respectively they have passed the first borders of middle age, and at fifty and sixty they are just leaving it to enter the Spring of old age.

Another ten years and he is reached the winter of life, and she is still far away, we generally find him shortly followed by her who, for many years, was the partner of his joys and woes.

O. O. M.

Thinks Love is All Gush.

To the Editor:

The wife should be at least five years the husband's junior, but not more than ten. In cases where the woman has reached the age of thirty to thirty-five before marriage, then the husband can be from ten to fifteen years the senior. Ninety per cent. of women would rather marry a man younger than herself.

All this talk about love overrunning disparity in age is pure gush. "I love is blind," they say, "but he soon doth ope his eyes."

Perfectly Safe.

To the *Standard Free Press*:

"If everybody followed my example," announced an enthusiastic temperance advocate, "and married a girl who was the city wife close before the end of the month."

"How's that?" asked a bald-headed auditor, who had not before spoken.

"They would close for lack of patronage."

"How's that?" asked the temperance advocate, eagerly.

"They would run out of stock."

Not on That One.

(From the *Standard Free Press*):

"Has my train gone?" I asked, as he hustled into the Wabash depot.

"I don't know, sir," replied an officer on duty.

"My train is lame,"

"None, sir."

"But you inquired for your train."

"I did, sir. Which one do you go out on?"

"The 1:35."

"When?"

"Right off."

"Oh, no you don't. That train has been sent up to New Haven. You will come in here and will see that you go out on one of the company's trains at 4:45."

Sweet Brain Fruit.

(From the *Chicago Times*):

"The average salary of the editorial writers on London papers is £1,200 a year."

"They make a good quality of preserves in the London newspaper offices, then, commented J. J. Moore.

"Why, that's a case of pound for pound, you see."

High Prices Are Talking.

(From the *Chicago Times*):

"Gracious," said Mrs. Peasey, "the Democratic stump speakers are thicker this year than blueberries in Squire Blodow's pasture."

"Why, I hasn't seen one yet," said Mrs. Peasey.

"Well, you haven't round much then. I hasn't been in store this week that I hasn't run up half a dozen at every counter."

The Best Man in the World.

Well, if not positively the best, one of the worst is he who checks disease at the start in his system.

In preserving or restoring the human system, health is the greatest problem.

The desire to live a longer, larger, more comfortable life of ease in the system, which is the result of the load that should never be.

What is his requirement in adversity? A wholesome tone. None so good, as it may be upon experience and testimony, as Hostetler's Stomach Balsam. Used judiciously, it is a great aid to the prevention of the disease.

Consequently the difference which has existed at the beginning will increase, unless some extraordinary measure is taken to combat the inequality.

There are many exceptions, but this is

the rule, in the generality of cases—that the ages of the two parties are nearly equal in order that the two natured unions allow merely making nature's allowance for the more rapid maturing of the women of from three to five years.

MONTREAL.

Not Far Apart.

Conjugal felicity is more apt to be lifelong than the owners of the "two hearts that beat as one" be near of an age—the wife the younger—than if of widely different ages.

The states are then more likely to be congenial. But a wide difference of years is a bar which love often safely overleaps; for where mutual respect and love are entertained for each other by husband and wife, who are both rich in the best qualities of head and heart, their wedded life, even though the woman be older, will be a success and a joy.

J. McC. O'C.

Should husband and wife be near the same age, or should the wife be much younger?

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